minerals in traditional sectors as mentioned above. MECL has diversified its activities in the following areas in the Tenth Five Year Plan:—

(i) Coal Sampling & analysis;

(ii) Ballast stone mining for supply to Railways; and

(iii) Deep drilling for CBM studies on behalf of ONGC and other organizations.

The above activities under diversified programme have been continued/undertaken in the first year of Tenth Plan period.

Proposal for New Aluminium Plant in Andhra Pradesh

2870. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposals to set up new aluminium plant in the State of Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Setting up Aluminium Plants near bauxite reserves

2871. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the States where largest quantum of bauxite reserve areas are found;

(b) whether Government have taken any step to set up aluminium alumina plants on the basis of the bauxite reserves in such States;

(c) whether private sector companies are also keen to set up bauxite base aluminium alumina plants in those States;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to clear these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra are the States where large bauxite reserves are found.

(b) The Government had set up Central Public Sector Undertakings like Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (Govt.'s 51% equity since divested) in Chhattisgarh and National Aluminium Company Limited in Orissa.

(c) to (e) The Aluminium Sector is exempted from the provision of Compulsory Licensing. The parties interested in setting up new aluminium plants have simply to file an Industrial Entrepreneurs Memorandum (IEM) with the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion. As per information available with the Ministry of Mines, the private sector companies such as Sterlite Industries Pvt. Ltd., Orissa Extrusions Limited, Indian Aluminium Company Limited, Passary Minerals Limited, Utkal Alumina, Larsen & Tubro and Hindalco Industries Limited are keen to set up new aluminium/alumina plants in the mineral rich States.

Establishing of Biogas plants in Gujarat

2872. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of bio-gas plants established in the State of Gujarat, district-wise;

(b) how many of them are presently functional;

(c) whether any survey is proposed to be conducted in this regard in the State; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) Information is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) Functioning of biogas plants depends upon many factors,